

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5137
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008
HELD UP COAL MINING OPERATIONS
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mining operations in about 100 coal blocks including that of Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal etc. States are held up;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the names of the companies allotted the said coal blocks alongwith the date of allotment, company-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to take back the allotted coal blocks from these companies; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA)

(a) to (c) : Till March, 2008 a total of 182 coal blocks have been allocated, out of which a total of 39 blocks were allocated upto year 2003 and remaining 143 blocks were allocated after year 2003. Since development of coal blocks involves a gestation period of 3-4 years, most of the allocated blocks are still in the development phase. In so far as 39 blocks allocated upto year 2003 are concerned, 13 blocks have already started production and the remaining 25 coal blocks are expected to start production by the year 2009-10. In case of 1 coal block, mining lease has been declared void. These blocks have not come to production due to time taken in obtaining mining lease, forest clearance, environmental clearance, acquisition of land etc. As per the guidelines, coal production from captive coal block should commence within 36 months

(42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mines and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of underground mine, from the date of allocation. If the captive coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and preparation of geological report. A statement, indicating the names of coal blocks, date of allocation, names of companies, state of location and status of production of the allocated blocks till March, 2008 is annexed.

(d) & (e): The allocatees of coal blocks, who have not started production so far, are in various stages of obtaining statutory clearances and mining lease, preparing mining plan, acquiring land, procuring machinery and equipment etc. for both the mining as well as end-use project. Specific milestones are laid down for development of coal blocks. This is monitored and reviewed periodically by a Committee headed by Additional Secretary (Coal). In case of willful delays, notices are issued, and where warranted, de-allocation of coal blocks is considered.